MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Mark A. Hussey
Interim President, Texas A&M University

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Kyle Field Stadium Renovation – West Side Monuments

The DRsc reviewed the Core Values Monument and the conceptual design for the Founders Monument and presented at the September 23, 2014 Council for the Built Environment (CBE) meeting.

Core Values Monument
The intent of the Core Values Monument is to highlight the history and tradition of Texas A&M. The proposal is for a 24 foot tall allegorical sculpture by artist James Muir to tell the story of Texas A&M’s core values.

DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the Core Values Monument with the following caveats:

- Re-evaluation of space around the monument to be able to view it as a single gesture before viewing of the details. Suggestions would be the removal of the surrounding trees and providing sufficient spatial distance from the Founders Monuments.
- Provide greater formal clarity and conceptual cohesion of the monument by constructing the entire monument and details in limestone with the exception of the figures and book, and through elimination of the abstract elements such as the columns (the six and the four).
- Elimination of the rough cut ashlar stones surrounding the monument.
- The DRsc still has concerns with the interaction between the limestone and bronze. The suggestion is to utilize a leuders limestone and consider a treatment of the limestone.
- Concern on the interactive concept of the piece and suggest engaging Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). After consultation with EHS and given the likelihood that individuals will climb, special provisions and reinforcements will need to be incorporated into the design of the bronze elements. Special attention needs to be considered at the arm extension, and the joints/connection points of the figures to one another. In addition, the design should discourage would-be climbers from going above a reasonable height. While it may be impossible to prevent some individuals from climbing higher, a comfortable climbing height should not afford easy access above the 3’ pedestal or the extended hand/arm (7-8’).
- Details regarding the plaque should be submitted to the DRsc for review, which shall include size, verbiage and exact location. The plaque must be reviewed against the Texas A&M Plaque Policy.
- Provide a hose bib for cleaning and maintenance in close proximity to the sculpture.
Since these DRsc recommendations were provided to the project team, two additional elements have been added to the monument: an additional tier and an A&M logo. The artist has emphasized their necessity to the balance, symbolism and composition of the piece. Please note that the artist is still detailing the ring bas-reliefs in bronze for two reasons. One, in order to read as a gold ring and two, he does not believe stone will work as well artistically, visually or symbolically.

Concerns:

- There is an issue with a single female being represented on the monument.
- Could the Book of Truth be eliminated? The artist feels very strongly that the Book of Truth is imperative to the concept and vision. However, it appears that “truth” is introducing a 7th core value. Also, it could be construed as a religious reference.
- Is this appropriate for placement at Kyle Field?
- Why are particular majors represented to represent each of the core values? All Aggies have these core values.
- The height of the statue is a safety issue.
- The statue has already been commissioned by the 12th Man Foundation.

Founders Monuments
The intent of the twelve founder’s monuments is to honor the large monetary donors of the stadium in a significant way. The proposed monuments are to be constructed of a pre-cast or limestone base with brick above, similar to the stadium. In the middle of the masonry will be a metal piece which would preferably depict a bas-relief of the donor couple. If this is not possible, then it could depict a symbol or wording to describe what is important to the donor in regard to TAMU. The monuments are approximately 10’ high, but can be reduced in size.

DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the concept for the twelve Founders Monuments with the following caveats:

- Recommend approval of the concept with a request for the opportunity to provide early input in regard to artist selection and further development of the monuments. Consideration for design revisions such as the removal of the brick surrounds.
- Re-evaluation of the location and scale of the monuments to provide spatial distance from Core Values Monument such as holding the plane of the parking garages (if approved) in order to define a “courtyard” space around the Core Values Monument.
- Coordination between the Founders Monuments and the Core Values Monument so they appear to be of the same artistic vision
- Recommend not using portraits of the founders, but the sub-council is open to selection of a symbol or some other means to honor these donors in a significant fashion.

Concerns:

- How many statues are being put up at Kyle Field? It appears the West End is being cluttered with statues.
- The size and location of the monuments are taking up walking space between parking and the stadium.
- The University has other large donors who are not recognized in a similar way.
The CBE voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend the President’s approval of the Core Values Monument at Kyle Field and the conceptual design for the Founders Monuments.

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**Karán L. Watson**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Concur or not concur with CBE’s recommendation:

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**Mark A. Hussey**

Interim President

Approved contingent upon following guidelines outlined in Appendix A & B.

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cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council for the Built Environment
Addendum A – Core Values Monument

The University will accept the Core Values Monument proposed by the 12th Man Foundation for the west side of the renovated Kyle Field pursuant to the following provisions:

1. The arch and the allegory depicted on such with the different depictions of Aggies are to be eliminated from the design.

2. The “Book of Truth” is to be eliminated from the design.

3. The monument is to be three-tiered.

4. The columns may remain at the discretion of the artist and the 12th Man Foundation.

5. The proposed shields and Texas A&M logo can remain bronze. A treatment of the limestone should be utilized to help reduce any negative interaction or staining between the limestone and the bronze.

6. The monument may be placed at the proposed site in front of the west side entrance of Kyle Field.

7. Details and location of the plaque should be submitted to the DRsc for review.

8. Provide a hose bib for cleaning and maintenance in close proximity to the sculpture.

9. The final design and location of the monument must be reviewed and approved by the Design Review sub-council of the Council for the Built Environment.

Upon meeting these provisions, the placement of the Core Values Monument will have the full support of the Texas A&M University administration.

Mark A. Hussey
Interim President

Cc: Karan Watson
Jerry Strawser
Sam Torn
Addendum B – Founders Monuments

The University will accept the Founders Monuments proposed by the 12th Man Foundation for the renovated Kyle Field pursuant to the following provisions:

1. The metal pieces which depict a bas-relief of the donor couple or depict a symbol or wording that describe what is important to the donor in regard to TAMU are acceptable.

2. The brick surrounds are to be removed.

3. The stone base (resized to an appropriate scale) may remain.

4. The height of the metal pieces should be re-evaluated for a more appropriate lower height for the resized stone base and in relation to a smaller Core Values Monument to create the same artistic vision.

5. An appropriate spatial distance from the Core Values Monument should be provided, specifically to provide greater distance.

6. The final design and location of the monuments (in relation to the Core Values Monument) must be reviewed and approved by the Design Review sub-council of the Council for the Built Environment.

Upon meeting these provisions, the placement of the Founders Monuments will have the full support of the Texas A&M University administration.

Mark A. Hussey
Interim President

Cc: Karan Watson
    Jerry Strawser
    Sam Torn
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Karan Watson  
    Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

FROM: Ms. Lilia Gonzales, AIA  
       University Architect and Chair, Design Review Sub-Council

DATE: September 16, 2014

RE: Design Review Sub-Council Report  
    Kyle Field Stadium Renovation – West Side Monuments

On May 14, 2014, the Design Review sub-council (DRsc) reviewed the Core Values Monument and the conceptual design for the Founders Monuments. Please refer to the attached site plan for proposed locations of these monuments.

**Core Values Monument**

The intent of the Core Values Monument is to highlight the history and tradition of Texas A&M. The proposal is for a 24 foot tall allegorical sculpture by artist James Muir to tell the story of Texas A&M’s core values. Please refer to the attached document titled “Texas A&M Core Values Concept” for a description of the monument as provided by the artist. Note that since this description was written, the “octogenarian couple” has been removed from the concept.

On May 14, 2014 DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the Core Values Monument with the following caveats:

- Re-evaluation of space around the monument to be able to view it as a single gesture before viewing of the details. Suggestions would be the removal of the surrounding trees and providing sufficient spatial distance from the Founders Monuments.
- Provide greater formal clarity and conceptual cohesion of the monument by constructing the entire monument and details in limestone with the exception of the figures and book, and through elimination of the abstract elements such as the columns (the six and the four).
- Elimination of the rough cut ashlar stones surrounding the monument.
- The DRsc still has concerns with the interaction between the limestone and bronze. The suggestion is to utilize a leuders limestone and consider a treatment of the limestone.
- Concern on the interactive concept of the piece and suggest engaging Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). After consultation with EHS and given the likelihood that individuals will climb, special provisions and reinforcements will need to be incorporated into the design of the bronze elements. Special attention needs to be considered at the arm extension, and the joints/connection points of the figures to one another. In addition, the design should discourage would-be climbers from going above a reasonable height. While it may be impossible to prevent some individuals from climbing higher, a comfortable climbing height should not afford easy access above the 3’ pedestal or the extended hand/arm (7-8’).
• Details regarding the plaque should be submitted to the DRsc for review, which shall include size, verbiage and exact location. The plaque must be reviewed against the Texas A&M Plaque Policy.
• Provide a hose bib for cleaning and maintenance in close proximity to the sculpture.

Since these DRsc recommendations were provided to the project team, two additional elements have been added to the monument: an additional tier and an A&M logo. The artist has emphasized their necessity to the balance, symbolism and composition of the piece. Please note that the artist is still detailing the ring bas-reliefs in bronze for two reasons. One, in order to read as a gold ring and two, he does not believe stone will work as well artistically, visually or symbolically. Please refer to the attached images, which include the original images reviewed by the DRsc on May 14th and the new updated computer renderings with the additional tier and A&M logo.

**Founders Monuments**
The intent of the twelve founder’s monuments is to honor the large monetary donors of the stadium in a significant way. The proposed monuments are to be constructed of a pre-cast or limestone base with brick above, similar to the stadium. In the middle of the masonry will be a metal piece which would preferably depict a bas-relief of the donor couple. If this is not possible, then it could depict a symbol or wording to describe what is important to the donor in regard to TAMU. The monuments are approximately 10’ high, but can be reduced in size.

On May 14, 2014 DRsc members voted to recommend approval of the concept for the twelve Founders Monuments with the following caveats:

• Recommend approval of the concept with a request for the opportunity to provide early input in regard to artist selection and further development of the monuments. Consideration for design revisions such as the removal of the brick surrounds.
• Re-evaluation of the location and scale of the monuments to provide spatial distance from Core Values Monument such as holding the plane of the parking garages (if approved) in order to define a “courtyard” space around the Core Values Monument.
• Coordination between the Founders Monuments and the Core Values Monument so they appear to be of the same artistic vision.
• Recommend not using portraits of the founders, but the sub-council is open to selection of a symbol or some other means to honor these donors in a significant fashion.

It is our understanding that the project team will present further details of the Founders Monuments at a later date. We look forward to that review.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

cc:    Sam Torn
       CBE Co-Chairs
       DRsc Members
TEXAS A & M CORE VALUES CONCEPT
James N. Muir
9/30/13 (revised)

**Artist's Statement:** As the six core values are perceived to be inseparable in the formation of character, I see them to also be inseparable in the rendering of a physical artistic depiction. I view them as representative individuals working in unison and harmony to accomplish the mission of perfecting the excellence of character in the A&M Graduate.

**Concept:** A tower of character stands steadfast upon a book; the book of truth through knowledge and education. The form of the tower is also representative of a "cenotaph"; a memorial for those who have gone before that are now scattered to the four winds. This tower, while still in the stages of being hewn to perfection – a rough ashlar being refined to make the perfect ashlar, in the vernacular of the stone mason/sculptor – has at its top the six bronze columns of the core values. There will be four more bronze columns at the next level down, supporting the top six columns.

On each side is a bas-relief rendering of the respective sides of the A&M ring while the center seal is in a relief on the front.

Beneath the crest is carved a listing of the 6 core values.

At the base are an octogenarian couple finalizing the carving of the word “TRUTH”, upon which all values rest.

Above the crest, on a ledge stands the first of the figures. This is a man in the dress uniform of the Commander of the Ross Volunteers, with distinctive red sash, doing a sabre salute in “RESPECT” for all who have gone before.

At the very top is "LEADERSHIP." He represents the ROTC Corps Commander setting the example of leadership by helping up his fellow “values” accomplish their mission.

Next comes "INTEGRITY" with a firm forearm grip with Leadership. He is dressed in the simple working clothes of an engineer with a compass around his neck signifying unfailing determination of direction and purpose.

"LOYALTY" is next and has the symbolic locked elbow grasp to Integrity above. He is dressed in the mode of a farmer/rancher, in harmony with the earth as well as with Humanity. He is bare-chested to show the muscular strength of his determination and loyalty. Over his shoulder is his bag of “good seeds” to sow in the fertile ground of character. His strong grip to the figure below is one that cannot slip or fail.
Next comes “EXCELLENCE” – “the Great Equalizer”, this is a female student, now on the scene after so many years of A&M’s being an all-male institution. She is in the graduation gown and cap of the aspiring graduate (tassel not yet flipped over to the “graduate” side of her “mortar-board” as further reference to the “builder of character”). In her left hand she clutches the Rose (yellow) of Excellence, which will be placed upon the highest level once she has risen to the very top.

“Excellence” is being supported up the straightest and least finished arch of the tower by “SELFLESS SERVICE.” This is depicted as one of the A&M recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He wears the USAF uniform and “crush cap” of a 1943 aviator. Around his neck is the Medal of Honor – the symbol of ultimate selfless service.

Note: As a directly interactive aspect, he is looking down to meet the viewer’s gaze with hand extended (@ 7 ft high) offering an invitation to join in the quest for perfection of character.

The Foundation Book is carved granite – the tower of character “built upon a Rock”, as a sitting/gathering site to help create an “interactive” relationship with the monument.

The cenotaph tower is in Limestone to match the stadium base treatment and will be constructed by P&S Masonry contractor according to Artist’s specifications and oversight.

Additional stone blocks (#tbd) are placed strategically around the area for sitting and viewing. These are the “imperfect” blocks of character “rejected by the builder”. One/two blocks are standing to provide basing for descriptive plaques.

**Note:** Figure size is estimated to be approximately 1 ¼ life-size to allow for both drama and interactional relationship with the viewers. (Study picture attached is 1:24 Scale)

**Dimensions:**

- **Booksize:** 12 ft wide x 16.968 ft long (12 x 1.414 Sacred Ratio) x 3 ft high
- **Tower:** 24 ft high, including book, (24 hrs/day to build character)
  - 5 ft (physical) x 7 ft (spiritual)
- **Arch:** 12 ft high inside (12 months, etc) x 4 ft wide
  - 3 ft x 3 ft x 15 ft high
W/O Carvers & rough blocks
"1/2 Carvers + Columns (any) + rough blocks"